



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

LISA WEBB SHARPE
DIRECTOR

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For more information, contact:
Edward Woods III, (517) 241-8619

State opens first E85 fueling center

LANSING - A ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday, December 5, marked the official opening of the State's first E85 fueling center. Employees who drive the State fleet's flexible-fuel vehicles may now find the alternative fuel at the Department of Management and Budget's (DMB) Vehicle and Travel Services Fleet Operations and Repair Facility at the Secondary Complex.

"Providing this fuel at our state facilities is another step forward in positioning Michigan as a leader in alternative fuels," said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. "Using E85 builds our economy and supports our agriculture and manufacturing industries."

DMB's Vehicle and Travel Services operations began operating the pump November 15. In the first six days of use, 752 gallons of E85 were used in fleet vehicles, exceeding department projections.

E85 is a blend of 15 percent unleaded gasoline and 85 percent ethanol, a renewable energy resource produced from materials such as corn or other grains.

DMB installed the new pump in response to a directive by the Governor. The Governor also has supported expansion and use of alternative fuel in the private sector, joining a partnership to increase the number of Michigan gas stations selling E85 and signing legislation creating a grant program to help service stations and bulk plant owners provide biodiesel and E85.

"By enabling employees to drive flex-fuel vehicles and providing E85 at a state facility, DMB is supporting the Governor's effort to promote and expand the use of alternative fuels," said Lisa Webb Sharpe, Director of the Department of Management and Budget. "This effort uses our fields to fuel Michigan's future."

"Michigan's comprehensive effort to develop and promote a renewable energy industry is gaining national attention and quickly becoming a model for other states," said Mitch Irwin, Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture. "Michigan has a long history of innovation, determination and public/private partnership, which continues to be key to our success."

Jody Pollok, executive director of the Michigan Corn Growers Association, concurs. "Automakers are stepping up their advertising and educational efforts so people know and understand what it means to drive a flexible-fuel vehicle," she said. "Between that and the increasing number of ethanol plants in the state, it's time to make E85 more available."

DMB manages the State fleet, which includes 2,113 vehicles capable of running on E85. These vehicles include Chevrolet, Dodge and Ford sedans, vans, trucks and sport utility vehicles. The department will add more flex-fuel vehicles in 2007.

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